

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for querying a structured document, comprising:

identifying auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view;

finding the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping; and

reporting said user query result to said user,

wherein executing the rewritten query further comprises:

constructing a pushdown expression for to perform evaluation with information in the auxiliary structure; and

constructing a compensation expression for to perform evaluation as a residual query,  
wherein said residual query comprises at least a portion of said query not associated with said index or said materialized view.

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2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising implementing the method in a relational database management system.
  
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the structured document includes a set of nodes described by an expression tree.
  
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the structured document is an XML document.
  
5. (Cancelled).
  
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the pre-computed information includes precomputed XPath results (PXRs).
  
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the user query processing further comprises navigating path expressions with a query language.
  
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the query language employs XPath.
  
9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the query language includes at least one of: XQuery, SQL/XML, and XSLT.
  
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the detecting further comprises:

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selectively executing a set of predetermined sequential rules to perform traversing of a tree of nodes; matching node data with the pre-computed information; and selecting auxiliary structures that subsume portions of the user query.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 A computer-implemented method for querying a structured document, comprising:

identifying auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view;

finding the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping; and

reporting said user query result to said user;

wherein the detecting further comprises:

selectively executing a set of predetermined sequential rules to perform traversing of a tree of nodes; matching node data with the pre-computed information; and selecting auxiliary structures that subsume portions of the user query,

wherein the node data includes axis data, test data, predicate data, and next step node data.

12. (Original) ~~The method of claim 10~~ A computer-implemented method for querying a structured document, comprising:

identifying auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view;

finding the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping;

reporting said user query result to said user; and

normalizing expression trees by moving predicate conditions into filter expressions before the identifying,

wherein the detecting further comprises:

selectively executing a set of predetermined sequential rules to perform traversing of a tree of nodes; matching node data with the pre-computed information; and

selecting auxiliary structures that subsume portions of the user query.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the compensation expression is an XPath predicate.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising building a taxonomy of auxiliary structures.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 further comprising classifying compensation expressions to the taxonomy according to a predetermined set of values.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the identifying handles at least one of: nested path expressions, nested predicates, value-based comparison predicates, conjunction, disjunction, all XPath axes, branches, and wild cards.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the XPath axes include child, descendant, self, attribute, parent, and descendant-or-self.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising creating a mapping directed acyclic graph (DAG) that separately encodes a set of all containment mappings for each node.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 19A computer-implemented method for querying a structured document, comprising:~~

identifying auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view;

finding the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping; and  
reporting said user query result to said user;

further comprising creating a mapping directed acyclic graph (DAG) that separately encodes a set of all containment mappings for each node,

wherein creating the mapping DAG is polynomial in terms of a size of expression trees.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising pruning the mapping DAG to remove invalid node pairs.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for querying a structured document,

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comprising:

an identifier of auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

a computer that computes computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view; and

a query evaluator that finds the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping, wherein said query evaluator reports said user query result to said user,

wherein executing the rewritten query further comprises:

constructing a pushdown expression for to perform evaluation with information in the auxiliary structure; and

constructing a compensation expression for to perform evaluation as a residual query,

wherein said residual query comprises at least a portion of said query not associated with said index or said materialized view.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22 that is implemented in a relational database management system.

24. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the structured document includes a set of nodes described by an expression tree.

25. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the structured document is an XML document.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the pre-computed information includes precomputed XPath results (PXRPs).

28. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the user query processing employs a query language that navigates path expressions.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the query language employs XPath.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the query language includes at least one of: XQuery, SQL/XML, and XSLT.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22 wherein the identifier: selectively executes a set of predetermined sequential rules to perform traversing of a tree of nodes; matches node data with the pre-computed information; and

selects auxiliary structures that subsume portions of the user query.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 31~~ A computer-based system for querying a structured document, comprising:

an identifier of auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

a computer that computes computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view; and

a query evaluator that finds the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping, wherein said query evaluator reports said user query result to said user,

wherein the identifier:

selectively executes a set of predetermined sequential rules to perform traversing of a tree of nodes; matches node data with the pre-computed information; and selects auxiliary structures that subsume portions of the user query,

wherein the node data includes axis data, test data, predicate data, and next step node data.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 31~~ A computer-based system for querying a structured document, comprising:

an identifier of auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

a computer that computes computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view; and

a query evaluator that finds the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping, wherein said query evaluator reports said user query result to said user,

wherein the identifier:

selectively executes a set of predetermined sequential rules to perform traversing of a tree of nodes; matches node data with the pre-computed information; and selects auxiliary structures that subsume portions of the user query,

wherein the identifier normalizes expression trees by moving predicate conditions into filter expressions before the identifier begins detecting.

34. (Cancelled).

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34 22 wherein the compensation expression is an XPath predicate.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34 22 wherein the identifier builds a taxonomy of auxiliary structures.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 36 wherein the identifier classifies compensation expressions to the taxonomy according to a predetermined set of values.

38. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the identifier handles at least one of: nested path expressions, nested predicates, value-based comparison predicates, conjunction, disjunction, all XPath axes, branches, and wild cards.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38 wherein the XPath axes include child, descendant, self, attribute, parent, and descendant-or-self.

40. (Original) The system of claim 22 wherein the identifier creates a mapping directed acyclic graph (DAG) that separately encodes a set of all containment mappings for each node.

41. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 40~~ A computer-based system for querying a structured document, comprising:

an identifier of auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to

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accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

a computer that computes computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view; and

a query evaluator that finds the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping, wherein said query evaluator reports said user query result to said user,

wherein the identifier creates a mapping directed acyclic graph (DAG) that separately encodes a set of all containment mappings for each node, and

wherein creating the mapping DAG is polynomial in terms of a size of expression trees.

42. (Original) The system of claim 40 wherein the identifier prunes the mapping DAG to remove invalid node pairs.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer program product tangibly embodying a program of computer-executable instructions to perform a method for querying a structured document, the method comprising:

identifying auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions

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and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view;

finding the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the precomputed information to each detected containment mapping; and

reporting said user query result to said user,

wherein said detecting of said containment mappings between said query expressions and said expressions in said auxiliary structures comprises matching node data of said query expressions with XPath expressions of said index and said materialized view, wherein said node data comprises axis data, test data, predicate data, and next XPath step node data.

44. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 further comprising implementing the method in a relational database management system.

45. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the structured document includes a set of nodes described by an expression tree.

46. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the structured document is an XML document.

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the pre-computed information includes pre-computed XPath results (PXRPs).

49. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the user query processing further comprises navigating path expressions with a query language.

50. (Original) The computer program product of claim 49 wherein the query language employs XPath.

51. (Original) The computer program product of claim 49 wherein the query language includes at least one of: XQuery, SQL/XML, and XSLT.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the detecting further comprises:

selectively executing a set of predetermined sequential rules to perform traversing of a tree of nodes;

matching node data with the pre-computed information; and

selecting auxiliary structures that subsume portions of the user query.

53. (Original) The computer program product of claim 52 wherein the node data includes axis data, test data, predicate data, and next step node data.

54. (Original) The computer program product of claim 52 further comprising normalizing expression trees by moving predicate conditions into filter expressions before the identifying.

55. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 43 wherein executing the rewritten query further comprises:

constructing a pushdown expression to perform evaluation with information in the auxiliary structure; and

constructing a compensation expression to perform evaluation as a residual query, wherein said residual query comprises at least a portion of said query not associated with said index or said materialized view.

56. (Original) The computer program product of claim 55 wherein the compensation expression is an XPath predicate.

57. (Original) The computer program product of claim 55 further comprising building a taxonomy of auxiliary structures.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 57 further comprising classifying compensation expressions to the taxonomy according to a predetermined set of

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values.

59. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 wherein the identifying handles at least one of:

nested path expressions, nested predicates, value-based comparison predicates, conjunction, disjunction, all XPath axes, branches, and wild cards.

60. (Original) The computer program product of claim 59 wherein the XPath axes include child, descendant, self, attribute, parent, and descendant-or-self.

61. (Original) The computer program product of claim 43 further comprising creating a mapping directed acyclic graph (DAG) that separately encodes a set of all Containment mappings for each node.

62. (Original) The computer program product of claim 61 wherein creating the mapping DAG is polynomial in terms of a size of expression trees.

63. (Original) The computer program product of claim 61 further comprising pruning the mapping DAG to remove invalid node pairs.

64. (Cancelled).

65. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1, A computer-implemented method for querying a structured document, comprising:~~

identifying auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view;

finding the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping; and  
reporting said user query result to said user,

wherein said detecting of said containment mappings between said query expressions and said expressions in said auxiliary structures comprises matching node data of said query expressions with XPath expressions of said index and said materialized view, wherein said node data comprises axis data, test data, predicate data, and next XPath step node data.

66. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 22, A computer-based system for querying a structured document, comprising:~~

an identifier of auxiliary structures including pre-computed information applicable to accelerate user query processing by detecting containment mappings between query expressions

and expressions in the auxiliary structures,

wherein the auxiliary structures include a number of indexes, a number of partial XML indexes, and a number of materialized views;

a computer that computes computing compensation to perform index selection and materialized view matching to determine what portion of said query expressions are evaluated by said index and said materialized view; and

a query evaluator that finds the user query result by executing a rewritten query that exploits the pre-computed information to each detected containment mapping, wherein said query evaluator reports said user query result to said user,

wherein said detecting of said containment mappings between said query expressions and said expressions in said auxiliary structures comprises matching node data of said query expressions with XPath expressions of said index and said materialized view, wherein said node data comprises axis data, test data, predicate data, and next XPath step node data.

67. (Cancelled).

**REMARKS**

Claims 13, 34, 64, and 67 have been cancelled above, leaving claims 1-12, 14-25, 27-33, 35-46, 48-63, 65 and 66 remaining in the application. Claims 1, 11, 12, 20, 22, 32, 33, 41, 43, 65, and 66 have been amended to be in independent form and included the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and should therefore be allowed. Claims 14, 15, 35 and 36 have been amended to change their dependency to an allowable claim, and should therefore be allowed.

Applicants have cancelled claims 5, 13, 26, 34, 37, 47, and 64 from further consideration in this application. Applicants are not conceding in this application that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Should the Examiner find claims 1-12, 14-25, 27-33, 35-46, 48-63, 65 and 66 to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.